

REMARKS

Claims 15-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 15, 18 and 27 are amended. Support for the amendment of claims 15, 18 and 27 can be found, for example, on page 12, lines 5-19 of the specification. No new matter is added by these amendments. A Request for Continued Examination is attached. Reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to express their appreciation to Examiners Marini and Yan for the courtesies extended Applicants' representative during the January 5, 2007 personal interview. The following remarks incorporate Applicants' summary of the substance of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 15-20, 22, and 24-28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0094222 to Furuya et al. (Furuya); rejects claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Furuya in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,855,441 to Kano; and rejects claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Furuya in view of Nakagawa et al. (Nagakawa). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 15, 18 and 27 recite an ejection roller that is operated independently of any cutting mechanisms. Furuya does not disclose this feature.

Furuya discloses a tape printing apparatus that forcibly discharges a cut-off strip of a tape material out of the apparatus. Furuya discloses an operation-synchronizing mechanism which synchronizes the cutting operation of a full-cutting means with the discharge operation of the tape from a strip-discharging means. The full-cutting drive motor 330 is also used as a drive source for discharge roller 510 of the strip-discharging means 500 (Furuya, paragraph [0164]). Therefore, the operation of the tape strip-discharging means is synchronized with the operation of the full-cutting means. Accordingly, the tape discharging operation is not

operated independently of the full-cutting means (Furuya, paragraph [0029]), as recited in claims 15, 18 and 27.

After significant discussion during the January 5 personal interview, Examiners Marini and Yan agreed that the applied prior art references do not teach, nor can they reasonably be considered to have suggested, at least the above-recited feature from claims 15, 18 and 27.

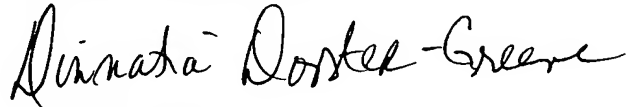
For at least the above reason, claims 15, 18 and 27, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinguishable over the applied prior art references.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 15-28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Furuya, and/or under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Furuya in view of Kano or Nakagawa, are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 15-28 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff

Registration No. 27,075

Dinnatia Doster-Greene

Registration No. 45,268

JAO:DJG/mab

Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination

Date: January 10, 2007

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION**

Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;

Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461